



Jesus is Better

BOOK OF HEBREWS

Hebrews 12:18-21

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“This terrifying scene highlights God’s holiness. God is the Lord. He is the Creator. He is not just a better version of us; he is something wholly different than us. His standard of holiness is utterly perfect.”

(Kruger, *Hebrews*, p. 208)



Blessings and Curses



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Hebrews 12:22-24

[22] But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, [23] and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, [24] and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Psalm 2:1-6

[1] Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? [2] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed... [4] He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. [5] Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, [6] **“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

Psalm 110:1-2

[1] The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” [2] **The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.** Rule in the midst of your enemies!

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- Peter identifies Jesus as the cornerstone upon which God builds his new temple. (1 Pet. 2:4-6).
- John records in the book of Revelation a futuristic vision of Jesus as the victorious Lamb of God standing on Mount Zion (Rev. 14:1-5).

Mount Sinai

Mount Zion

1	Cannot be touched	City of living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
2	Blazing fire	Innumerable angels
3	Darkness	Assembly of firstborn enrolled in heaven
4	Gloom	God the judge of all
5	Tempest	Spirits made perfect
6	Sound of trumpet	Jesus, the mediator of new covenant
7	[Overwhelming] Voice	Sprinkled blood better than Abel's

Revelation 21:1-3

[1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] **And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Hebrews 13:13-14

[13] Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. [14]

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

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Hebrews 10:19-22

[19] Therefore, brothers, since **we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus**, [20] by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, [21] and since we have a great priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **with our hearts sprinkled clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

What's the point of contrasting Sinai & Zion?

Why does the author wax eloquent about the glorious 7-fold nature of their future destination?

Hebrews 12:25-26

[25] See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. [26] At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”

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Haggai 2:6-7

[6] For thus says the LORD of hosts: **Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. [7] And I will shake all nations,** so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts...

Haggai 2:20-22

[20] The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, [21] “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, **I am about to shake the heavens and the earth,** [22] and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother.

“In sum, the future divine shaking of the heavens will include both an elimination of the powers and principalities that have reigned unjustly over creation and a preparation of God’s realm, making it ready for God’s people.”

(Peeler, Hebrews, p. 397)

Hebrews 12:27-29

[27] This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. [28] Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, [29] for our God is a consuming fire.

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Key Takeaways

1. Sinai shows us that our sin is a fatal barrier to experiencing God's presence. *So, we should abandon all attempts to save ourselves through our own good deeds.*

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1. Sinai shows us that our sin is a fatal barrier to experiencing God's presence. *So, we should abandon all attempts to save ourselves through our own good deeds.*
2. Zion shows us that Jesus is the only means to experiencing God's presence. *So, we should respond with absolute surrender & accept all that Jesus offers us through genuine faith.*

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3. God's kingdom is the only thing that will stand the test of time. *So, we should use our time, talents, and treasures to help build God's Kingdom rather than our own.*

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3. God's kingdom is the only thing that will stand the test of time. *So, we should use our time, talents, and treasures to help build God's Kingdom rather than our own.*
4. God is a consuming fire who purifies everything and everyone in His path. *So, we should not presume upon His grace, but respond with gratitude, reverence, and awe.*

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